

Proposals relating to LITTLE YARMOUTH.

The manner of the situation of Great Yarmouth, and of its Trade and Buildings.

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Within a mile, on the East of the Town, is the Main Ocean: on the North-West, the River Brayden; where three Rivers (Wavenee, which parts the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; Tare, which runs thorow the City of Norwich; the Bure, which comes from the North-parts of Norfolk) meet: from whence this River falls East and by South; and before it runs into the Sea, continues its course on the Key of Yarmouth. By these Rivers, to the Land-ward, all the Country-Growths and Manufactures are with little charge brought to Yarmouth: and up these streams, these Countries are furnished with Forrein and Domestick Commodities at reasonable Rates, by reason the Flux of the Sea doth make the current into the Country almost equal with the current out of the Country.

As the Town is naturally situated with these advantages for the Trade of these Countries, above any of the Eastern Coast: so it lies in the same Latitude as Amsterdam; and by consequence, more convenient then any other Town on the Eastern Coast of England for the Trade of the United Netherlands and Flanders, and almost equal with Hull and Newcastle for the Trade of Hamborough, the Hance-Towns, the Baltic and Norway. It is moreover enriched above any Town in England, or perhaps in the World, with a yearly Revenue of the Fishing-trade; which if it were managed and improved to the best advantage, might far exceed the Dutch Fishing-trade. But this for many years, by reason of this Towns appropriating the Trade to a few hands, hath both rendered this Trade useless to the rest of this Nation, besides the Free-men of Yarmouth, who have not Vessels enough to maintain the same; and have by this means given the Dutch an opportunity of being the greatest gainers by it, who have for many years last past brought over their Busses, and other Fishing Vessels, and have taken the Herrings on this Coast, and brought the same into Yarmouth, and sold the same to them for ready money; which money might as well have been got by our selves, and kept at home.

This place, although so naturally and advantagiously seated for Trade, yet it is no way conveniently built for it: the back-part thereof being so narrowly built in Lanes and Rows, as that there can be no access made to it, but by Barrows, used nowhere in England but in this place, and for this reason only. Besides, the houses are built so low, as also being straightned for Warehouse-room, they cannot receive such quantities of Merchandise as their Trade is capable of. And although the houses to the Key are fair and well built, yet they are not of sufficient capacity to entertain the fourth part of such Merchants as might trade upon the account of this Harbour; neither have they the conveniences of fresh water. Notwithstanding which, by reason of the advantages aforesaid, they have and do flourish in Trade above any Town in England, but London and Bristol; which they are able to do upon their own account, without any dependency on any other place.

The situation of Little Yarmouth, and Priviledges granted by his Majesty, the King of England, to his own Subjects, and the Subjects of Holland.

The Town of Little Yarmouth, heretofore called South-Town, was an Incorporate Town before Great Yarmouth, and did enjoy several priviledges, as the lading and unlading Merchandise, and of exporting and importing all kinde of Merchandise, which made the said Town in a very flourishing condition. But the Town of Great Yarmouth, by their much greater power, procured several Grants and Letters Patents, upon some plausible and specious pretences, whereby they appropriated to the Free-men of Great Yarmouth, the Monopoly of Lading and Unlading all sorts of Merchandise within ~~10~~ miles of Great Yarmouth; which occasioned the said Town in a short time to decay, and to be forsaken by her Inhabitants. But so it is, that it hath pleased the King, by an Act of Parliament, made in the sixteenth and seventeenth year of his Reign, intituled, *An Act for settling of differences between the said Towns, touching the Lading and Unlading of Herrings, and other Merchandise*; as also his Majesty, by his Letters Patents dated the tenth of February in the twentieth year of his Reign, by both which is granted and confirmed to those, which are or shall be Inhabitants of Little Yarmouth, their Ancient Priviledges; and that any persons, by inhabiting there, are to enjoy all the Ancient Priviledges of this place, and to be equal partakers of all the Priviledges granted to the Free-men of Great Yarmouth; and are, by their inhabiting there, Free-men of both Towns: which Freedom is rated by the Free-men of Great Yarmouth, at 30 l. 40 l. or 50 l.

His Majesty hath by his Gracious Declaration, bearing date the twelfth day of June, 1672. granted to the Subjects of the United Provinces of the Low-Countries, as followeth:

First, That all such Subjects, of what Profession, Rank or Condition soever, shall have leave to transport themselves to what part of England they please, in what Ships they will, without any seizure or molestation.

Secondly, That all such persons arrived in England, shall be free in their Estates and Persons, with liberty to settle themselves and Families where they please, and have Liberty of Conscience, as to matters in Religion; and to enjoy all Priviledges of his own Subjects, and to pay no more Duties or Customs then his Majesties Subjects.

Thirdly, That his Majesty at next Sessions of Parliament will Naturalize them, their Children, and Servants; and are immediately made Denizens of England, without charge or trouble.

Fourthly, All their Ships, Boats, Busses, and other Vessels, shall be accounted as English-built, and enjoy the same Priviledges in Trade and Customs.

Fifthly, All Dutch Seamen, Mariners, Fisher-men, Shipwrights, Carpenters, and other Artificers relating to Shipping, or Sea-Affairs, shall be and remain free and exempt from any Press.

Sixthly, That his Majesty will grant free Passes and Convoys to all Persons, Families, and their Goods, as shall transport themselves.

This place, as it's Staked out to be Built, is far more convenient for Trade then Great Yarmouth, in respect of its Uniformity, and lying upon the Haven, and for the conveniences of wide Streets and Lanes for Carriages; and for that there is such a depth allowed to every house, and fresh water.

The Proprietors in the said ground do propose to all such of the English and Dutch Nation as are willing to build upon the said Ground so staked out, that they shall have and enjoy the same upon these Conditions following:

For each foot in front for that ground which fronts the Key, 2 s. 6 d. per annum.

For each foot in front which fronts the New street, with the Back-side towards the Key, 2 s. per an.

For each foot in front on the other side the New street, 1 s. 8 d. per an.

Note, Every foot in front, hath 100 foot in depth allowed to the same; and that any Undertaker may have what front may best suit with his occasions.

The Proprietors of the Ground are contented to Lease out the same for 40 years, or five Lives; and if allowance be made, for any longer term, or larger estate therein. The first year they are to enjoy the same Rent-free.

The advantage of laying out money in Building in this place, is very great; houses, after the rate as they yeild in Great Yarmouth, yeilding 12 per cent.

Materials in this place are very reasonable; as Bricks at 10 s. a thousand made upon the place; Lime is all made there: Oaken Timber is brought down the three Rivers very reasonable: Fir-timber and Deal bought in very reasonable, being opposite to Denmark; ships going daily from this Harbour thither.

This place is convenient for all sorts of Merchants, Trades-men, Fisher-men, Ship-Carpenters, &c. and for all other Trades and Implyments belonging to Maritime Affairs.

The Proprietors do further propose, to set out a convenient piece of Ground for the Building a Dutch Church; as also convenient Market-places.

Any person may receive further satisfaction, as to these Proposals, if he repair to Mr. Baldwin Statoner in Miter-Court in the passage to the Temple; or at Jo. Painters Coffee-house in Cornhill; or of Mr. Watts in Yarmouth.